Use of harmful colours in soft drinks

2158. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received reports that some of the colours of ingredients used in soft drinks under different names are not safe for health;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether investigations were made into the matter; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken to ban the use of harmful colours and ingredients by soft drink manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) to (c) Information is being collected from States/U.Ts.

(d) The Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 permit only those colours and ingredients which are considered to be safe. On the basis of the advice of the experts this Ministry has decided to ban three synthetic colours viz. Amaranth, Fast Red E and Green S.

Retirement benefits for coal miners who work in underground mines

2159. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the workers who work in underground coal mines would be allowed to nominate anybody they choose for jobs in collieries after their voluntary retirement;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) how this measure would reduce cost and increase productivity?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) No, Sir. There is no scheme or proposal presently under consideration to provide jobs to any nominee of the under-ground workers seeking voluntary retirement.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Petrol and Petroleum Products in the country

2160. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to create a price equalisation fund to have uniform prices of petrol and petroleum products all over the country; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to fix a concessional rate for diesel oil used for agricultural purposes?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

Monitoring of the fat content of cooking oil

2161. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the ill effects of consumption of saturated fat by human beings and the resultant heart diseases;

(b) if so, what is Government's policy with regard to the use of vanaspati or hydro-generated oil in the country: